

Ross Kendrick

Class – 2009

Category – Baseball players

In Great Britain baseball's first major triumph – victory in the 1938 World Championships – pitcher Ross Kendrick was the team's stand-out player. Kendrick won both the opening contest and the event-clinching fourth game on the mound as part of a four-games-to-one series victory against the United States. The Americans had a formidable line-up that included two future Major Leaguers, but in the first game Kendrick twirled a two-hit complete-game shut-out, striking out 16 batters. Then, in front of 10,000 spectators in game four, he threw a second shut-out. In going the distance, Kendrick fanned 12 batters and allowed just three singles. The pitcher's

success in Great Britain was not limited to this series. He played for numerous teams throughout a long career, pitching and playing outfield into his sixties, mainly in the Birmingham area. Kendrick appeared in at least one national final, as a member of the Oldham Greyhounds in 1938, coming up on the losing end of a 1–0 thriller. He was also known for his stellar sportsmanship. “He was always a gentleman,” said John Prescott, who umpired in many of Kendrick's games during his later years. “He never complained about my calls. He might not have agreed with some of them, but he took the call as it came.”